

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/672,028	TSUKAMOTO, TOSHIKATSU
	Examiner	Art Unit
	CHAN S. PARK	2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 7/25/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20051020.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____

EDWARD COLES
 SUPERVISORY EXAMINER
 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263 on October 20, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image output apparatus, comprising:
an image reading section 3 for reading an image on a document and converting the image into image data;
an image storing section 72 for storing the image data read by the image reading section;
an image output section for outputting the image corresponding to the document on the basis of the image data stored in the image storing section;
an index sheet issue instruction accepting section for accepting an instruction to issue an index sheet [[.]] ;
an index sheet output control circuit for causing the image output section to output an index sheet in response to the acceptance of the instruction to issue the index sheet by the index sheet issue instruction accepting section, the index sheet output by the image output section carrying index information;

an index recognizing circuit for image-recognizing, when the index sheet is read by the image reading section, the index information on the sheet;

an index information storing section 94 arranged to store an index registration tables;

an index registering circuit for registering, in response to image recognition by the index recognizing circuit, the index information recognized by the index recognizing circuit and corresponding storage area designation information for designating a storage area in said image storing section 72 (92), associated with each other in the index registration tables, the index registering circuit generating the storage area designation information upon the image recognition of the index information by the image recognizing circuit; and

a circuit for storing the image data representing a the document, which has been read by the image reading section subsequently to the index sheet, in a storage area 92 of the image storing section 72 designated by the storage area designation information ADR-1, 2, 3, etc. associated with the index information, the index sheet having been output by the image output section under control of the index sheet output control circuit.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The image output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising :

recognizing circuit for overwriting, when the index information recognized by said index recognizing circuit has already been registered by said index registering circuit, an the image data representing a the document which has been read by said image

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reading section subsequently to the index sheet on the storage area, in said image storing section which is to be designated by the storage area designation information associated with the index information.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The image output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising :

an index image output instruction accepting section for accepting an index image output instruction for outputting a document image corresponding to an the index information carried on an the index sheet, and

an index image output control circuit for reading out, when said index recognizing circuit recognizes the index information in a state where the index image output instruction is accepted by the index image output instruction accepting section, the image data, in said image storing section, to be designated by the storage area designation information associated with the recognized index information, and causing the image output section to output the image corresponding to the image data.

/ Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The image output apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the image output section outputs and records an the image of a the document a recording sheet, and

the index image output control circuit causes the image output section to discharge recording sheets to different positions for image data of respective documents.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 1-3 and 5** are allowed. These claims will be renumbered as 1-4.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claimed image output apparatus comprises an image reading section, image storing section, an image output section, an index sheet issue instruction accepting section, an index recognizing circuit, and index information storing section, an index registering circuit, and a circuit for storing image data representing a document. The claim distinguishes over the prior art in that the index registering circuit registers, in response to image recognition by the index recognizing circuit, the index information recognized by the index recognizing circuit and corresponding storage area designation information for designating a storage area in said image storing section, associated with each other in the index registration tables, the index registering circuit generating the storage area designation information upon the image recognition of the index information by the image recognizing circuit.

Furthermore, as the applicant clearly pointed out in the Remark filed on 7/25/05 wherein on page 3, the claimed storage area designation information is not generated until the index information carried on the index sheet has been recognized by the image recognizing circuit.

The most relevant prior art Melen (U.S. Patent No. 6,426,806) discloses an apparatus for scanning document information and routing locations for scanned document information in a memory, wherein the location must be registered in the list

beforehand. However, Melen does not teach the applicant's claimed combined limitations of the index registering circuit with other sections in the apparatus.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

csp
October 21, 2005

Chan S. Park
Examiner
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